

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC (SECY VISIT)

SUBJECT: COLORADO RIVER SALINITY

1. INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES ISSUE FOLLOWING NEWS
RELEASE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECRETARY ROGERS MEETS WITH
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND RELEASES STATEMENT ON PRESENT-
ATION OF US PROPOSAL REGARDING SALINITY.

2. TEXT: SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C. B. MORTON
TODAY WELCOMED SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS' ANNOUNCEMENT IN
MEXICO CITY THAT HE HAD PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA
THE US PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT, DEFINITIVE AND JUST
SOLUTION TO THE COLORADO RIVER SALINITY PROBLEM. SECRETARY
MORTON EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE NOW WOULD BE EARLY
PROGRESS TOWARD THAT FINAL SOLUTION THAT BOTH THE UNITED
STATES AND MEXICO HAVE BEEN SEEKING.

3. TAKING NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE US PROPOSAL IS
BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MR. HERBERT BROWNELL --
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RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY PRESIDENT NIXON -- SECRETARY MORTON SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL OF WORK HAS GONE INTO TECHNICAL STUDIES ON WHICH FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL BASED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT AND RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN THOSE

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STUDIES, AS HAVE OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, SAID THE SECRETARY, AND HE IS GLAD THAT THE WORK DONE IS NOW CONTRIBUTING TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

4. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, HE ADDED, EXPECTS TO CONTINUE ITS SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CONQUERING THE SALINITY PROBLEM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO. END TEXT.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM FONOFF OF PROPOSED RELEASE. ROGERS

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